

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 275

By Johnson

A RESOLUTION to honor the life and memory of Dennis Phillips of Franklin.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dennis Phillips; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Phillips was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, since his election in 2003, he served with acumen and alacrity during his first term as an At-large Alderman for the Franklin Board of Mayor and Aldermen, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and his constituents alike for the exemplary quality of his work; he was also the city's vice mayor; and

WHEREAS, Dennis Phillips had just turned fifty six years old when he succumbed to his hard-fought battle against pancreatic cancer; that battle never deterred him from serving the citizens he represented; and

WHEREAS, the week before his death, he had attended a work session and special meeting of the Franklin Board of Mayor and Aldermen in which he vehemently fought for a citywide, curbside recycling program over the objections of staff and others who said it would cost too much; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Phillip's tenacity, determination, and courage to fight for that in which he believed defined him as both a public servant and a human being; it's his lasting legacy; and

WHEREAS, "He never gave up," said Franklin Mayor Tom Miller, "be it front-loaded garages, recycling, or commitment to the Franklin firefighters"; and

WHEREAS, those people who were closest to Mr. Phillips describe him as an independent thinker with keen insight, dignity, and courage who enjoyed the challenge of a quick-witted conversation and feisty debate; and

WHEREAS, fellow Alderman Beverly Burger said she didn't always share his same opinion, but she respected his attention to detail and his commitment to serve the citizens and do his job well; and

WHEREAS, Dennis Phillips attended Middle Tennessee State University and was a member of Kappa Alpha Order; he had worked for twenty years with Blockbuster Video; and

WHEREAS, an ardent volunteer with The Heritage Foundation, Dennis Phillips energetically supported historic preservation; he was instrumental in saving Dan German Hospital and the Green House, as well as Harlinsdale Farm, Eastern Flank Battlefield, and the old Pizza Hut property which is now a pocket Park; and

WHEREAS, he held a variety of leadership positions, including the Board's representative on the Planning Commission, chair of the Community and Economic Development Advisory Committee, member of the Public Enterprise Advisory Committee, and the Parks Advisory Committee; he also served as a member of the Budget and Finance Advisory Committee, Tree Commission, Community Development, and the Fieldstone Farms Homeowners Association; and

WHEREAS, Dennis Phillips worked diligently to ensure that Franklin by-laws and city ordinances were abided by and understood by the residents of Franklin, requesting that Citizen Comments be heard at the beginning of every Planning Commission and Board of Aldermen meeting; he pushed for the continuation of the Streetscape beautification project outside the original 16-block area of the city of Franklin, and strived to implement Skate Park and a recycling program in City Hall, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Phillips served on the Keep Williamson County Beautiful committee, was the Board's representative on the Franklin Transit Authority, and was a strong advocate for public safety, fighting for higher staffing levels in the fire department; and

WHEREAS, Dennis Phillips was an active and devout member of First United Methodist Church, and served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Lynne Phillips, and was the proud father of sons, Shaun and Devin Phillips; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his wife and sons, Mr. Phillips is survived by his mother, Lorene Blackburn Phillips, father-in-law and mother-in-law, Lincoln and Helen Stock, two sisters-in-law, Elena Madsen and Anita Phillips, and his beloved pets, Sadie and Troy; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his father, J.M. Phillips and his brother, Mark; and

WHEREAS, Dennis Phillips leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the life and memory of Dennis Phillips, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction, as we pay tribute to his many noble accomplishments as a Franklin Alderman and public servant of the highest order.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Phillips.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.